



**TOWN OF CHESHIRE
CHESHIRE SENIOR CENTER**

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March 6, 2009

Donald J. DeFronzo, Co-Chair
Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair
Transportation Committee
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

I am writing to urge you to support bill #SB1093 an act regarding the continued financial support of the Dial-A-Ride program. As I'm sure you know, transportation is the one of the most important services we provide for our elderly and disabled citizens. It is especially important in Towns such as Cheshire where there is limited public bus service and no private livery services. With more and more seniors and disabled people living longer independent lives, the need for support services within a community is also growing. Our Dial-A-Ride program provided regional cooperation, to better coordinate rides especially in and around the metropolitan area of Waterbury. It took the last two years of service, to shift riders from local transportation to this new Dial-A-Ride program, because change is difficult. With the increased use of the Dial-A-Ride system, our local transportation was able to provide service to other Towns and other riders in the area. Now that the riders are comfortable with a regional service and all the kinks have been worked out, it is difficult to see them lose the service they have come to rely on.

Please reconsider the burden that a Dial-A-Ride (Regional Transportation Services) will have on our disabled, elderly and Town services. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doreen Pulisciano
Director of Senior/Transportation Services